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**Thursday, January 12, 2012**

# THE MORNING NEWS

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## Romney roars ahead with second US vote victory



AFP photo shows Republican presidential hopeful Mitt Romney celebrating during the primary night victory rally in Manchester, New Hampshire, yesterday. Mitt Romney has won the second Republican vote of the year by coming out on top in the New Hampshire primary.

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## First ostentatious seminar to be held here in the new Dr. Edward Cheung Innovation Center.

ORANJESTAD -- First top-notch seminar to be held here in the new Dr. Edward Cheung Innovation Center on January 16 and 17. The "Aruba-Harvard" seminar on Energy and Sustainable Development will be held here in Oranjestad at the new prestigious Dr. Edward Cheung Innovation Center. This will be the first of many seminars and workshops to take place in this specially designed center of excellence.

Seven Harvard University professors, along with our own local experts, TNO, and from TU Delft are scheduled to participate. The primary objective of the seminar is to explore creative solutions for the global problem of the environment.

Energy and Sustainable Development will be topics on the agenda during the two-day seminar.

One of the elite participants at this seminar is Harvard University's Dr. Schrag, world renowned professor of science and member of the advisory council to US President Barack Obama. Other participants are: George Baker, professor of Business Administration and leader in the field of energy storage; Michael J. Aziz, professor of Materials and Technology at



**Dan Schrag, Professor of Earth and Planetary Sciences**

Harvard's School of Engineering and Applied Sciences with his ample experience and expertise in the fabrication of efficient solar cells; Peter Huybers, professor of Earth Sciences and Planets with vast experience in the science of climate and the Caribbean; Jonathan B. Losos, professor of Organic Biology and leader in the field of ecology with special emphasis on Biodiversity.

Also participating in this seminar are: David Keith, professor of Applied Physics in Harvard's Faculty of Engineering and Applied Sciences. Keith is also professor

of Politics and Director of the office of the Environment and Natural Resources with ample experience in sustainable transport.

Aruba's ministers of government will join these Harvard professors in this upcoming seminar. Several Aruban experts, analysts and advisers will also share in this illustrious event, among them: Jan Ebbing of TNO, Dr. Ryan Peterson of the University of Aruba and Professor Jan van der Tempel of TU Delft who is an expert on matters related to solar energy.

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## Mosquito eradication team is on the road with their "swipe action"

ORANJESTAD -- The dynamic "swipe action" team has begun their house to house search for mosquito breeding areas.

The first area to be visited is the Santa Cruz barrio, which happens to be the barrio with the most reported cases of Dengue in Aruba. Last reports indicate that the incidence of breeding or infestious areas have diminished considerably. This means that the community has become much more conscious of the problem and are taking pro-active steps to



Mosquito breeding spot discovered in Santa Cruz



Getting a fine for not avoiding mosquito breeding spots

eliminate mosquito breeding areas around their dwellings.

The government has announced that fines for breeding areas will be levied to anyone who is found to not

have eliminated these. Marine Geerman, one of the controllers of the "swipe team" reported that they gave out very few fines. Most of the residents were careful to

clean up around their yards and to make certain that there were no breathing areas. The government's intention is not to simply go around levying fines, but to stimulate everyone to get rid of all potential for mosquito breeding areas so we can avoid a Dengue outbreak.

According to Marine Geerman, thus far they have issued 9 fines of Afls.50 each, one fine for each breathing area discovered. This, she claims is much better than the last time such an action was undertaken. The last time they issued 80 fines during the entire control period. The swipe action will continue in the Santa Cruz barrio for another two weeks to ensure that a thorough control was conducted and that they were able to eliminate all breeding areas.

The entire team, comprised of members of the Department of Public Health, GKMB, Serlimar and the Police are working diligently to combat the breeding grounds of the Dengue carrying mosquitos. The primary objective is to create an Aruba free of Dengue, and if everyone continue to cooperate this will be the ultimate result

## As of 2013 businesses must submit yearly financial statements according to the Aruba Chamber of Commerce & Industry

ORANJESTAD -- In a recent Parliament meeting, the government decreed that as of January 1st, 2012 that all businesses will be required to submit an annual financial statement and their registry of shareholders to the Chamber. However, in an amendment to the law, it was agreed that the obligation will take effect in January 2013.

The obligation by law includes all NV and AVV, while for VBA this has been existing already since 2009. The obligation to submit a list of all share holders is a new law which applies to all the legal forms of businesses.

The date of January 2013 is valid for businesses established before January 1st, 2012. Businesses established since January 1st, 2012 maintains the obligation to submit both documents within 8 months after the close of their accounting year.

For most companies their accounting year ("boekjaar") runs concurrently with the calendar year. This means that they have an obligation to submit the documentation within no more than 8 days after the General Shareholders Assembly, or in any event within 8 days after the close of the approved time limit. A copy of the list of shareholders must also be submitted within 8 months after the close of the financial year, or before August 31st if the financial year runs from January to December.

This obligation requires every company/business to ensure that their financial statements are approved

within the 8 months following the close of their financial year. The financial statement should contain at least a balance sheet, profit and loss statement and an explanatory note of these documents. These documents can be produced by the company owner or an accountant. The company submitting the documents should indicate to the Chamber whether their documents are confidential or can be made available for public viewing. In any event the Chamber will treat each document as confidential unless otherwise stated by the company.

This measure of the government is in keeping with the regulations of the FATF. One other matter inclusive in the new law is the matter of bearer shares.

Bearer shares will no longer be accepted when issuing business permits on Aruba. FATF sees this matter as suspect with regards to money laundering and to the financing of terrorism. The law allows for these shares to be converted into shares on name of a person within three years...as registered shares. Refusal to convert these shares as such will forfeit any and all legal rights of the person.

On Tuesday January 24th, the Chamber will host an informative meeting to explain this new law in detail. The Department of Law Procurement will also participate in this informative session. For more information and registration contact: business-info@aruba chamber.com.



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## Laura sailing trip around the World nears completion

AMSTERDAM — Teenage Dutch sailor Laura Dekker is nearing the finish of her solo sailing trip around the world almost the same way she began it — in good spirits, despite endless debate about the terms under which she is allowed to be at sea.

Now 16, Dekker is on the final leg, a long stint from Cape Town, South Africa, to the Caribbean island of St. Maarten, where she set sail in 2010. Amid blustery weather, she's on pace to reach port in Philipsburg around Jan. 24, her lawyer Peter de Lange said yesterday.

But in her native Netherlands, the story of her voyage has once again been overshadowed by conflicts with the

Dutch school system and bureaucrats about approval for her trip.

De Lange confirmed a report in De Volkskrant newspaper Tuesday that truancy officers issued her father a summons to appear late last year after a newspaper quoted her as saying she hadn't been giving her studies full attention.

De Lange said the report was a misunderstanding, based on her saying she needed to concentrate on sailing while weather in the Atlantic was poor.

When her father refused to turn up, the truancy agency notified child protective services, infuriating the family.

## Joran van der Sloot pleads guilty in Peru murder trial

LIMA (AFP) - Dutchman Joran van der Sloot pleaded guilty yesterday to the 2010 murder of a young Peruvian woman, after his trial was delayed last week.

"Yes, I consider myself guilty," said 24-year-old Van der Sloot, nodding his head, in a Lima courtroom.

The trial was rapidly adjourned until Friday. Van der Sloot's confession meant that he could be sentenced within 48 hours.

The prosecution accused the Dutchman of killing Stephany Flores, 21, "with cruelty and ferocity" in a Lima hotel on May 30, 2010 after they met playing poker in a casino. She was found dead after being beaten and stran-

gled. The prosecution is seeking a 30-year jail term for murder and theft.

Van der Sloot remained silent as his lawyer asked for a reduction in his sentence yesterday.

Admitting guilt will allow him to qualify for an "early termination" of his case, which comes with benefits under Peruvian law such as a reduced sentence and authorized leave from prison.

Had he denied the charges, he would have faced a legal process that could have led to potential life imprisonment.

The case is being closely followed in the United States because the defendant is the prime suspect in the unsolved 2005 disappearance of US col-



**Joran van der Sloot**

lege student Natalee Holloway on Aruba.

The Dutchman was twice arrested in the Holloway case and spent three months in jail but never was formally charged. Holloway's body never has been found.



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## Staff Declaration 2012 forms available now

ORANJESTAD – Employee Declaration forms are now available at the Department of Labor offices at L.G. Smith Boulevard 134; H & R Managers and business owners can pick them up during office hours or they can also be downloaded from the website [www.overheid.aw](http://www.overheid.aw) or [www.gobierno.aw](http://www.gobierno.aw).

Annually, the Department of Labor requests information of all personnel in service, based on art. 3 subsection 1, sub c of the Labor Regulation AB 1989 GT 6.

The forms can be delivered starting January 16 with a deadline of March 30, 2012 at the counter of the Department of Labor, 3rd floor.

The Department of Labor advises that this year there are new items on the form and all the spaces must be filled in completely. This will be checked by the Department of Labor and incomplete forms will not be accepted.

If a business submits a digital form, a hard copy must still also be delivered at the Department of Labor, as it will be stamped with the government seal as proof of delivery, with the date of delivery, so it is for a business' protection and advantage to do this.

Office hours of the Department of Labor are from Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Its offices are situated at L.G. Smith Boulevard 134, tel. 583-7720.

For information, please contact Simon Brete or Louissety Croes or send an e-mail at [simon.brete@aruba.gov.aw](mailto:simon.brete@aruba.gov.aw) or [louissety.croes@aruba.gov.aw](mailto:louissety.croes@aruba.gov.aw)

## Oman, the Netherlands sign MoUs to strengthen ties

MUSCAT -- Sultan Qaboos Bin Saeed hosted an official banquet at Al Alam Palace late Tuesday evening in honour of Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands even as Oman and Holland signed memorandums of understanding (MoUs) in different fields to boost ties between the two countries.

Before the banquet, the Sultan and Queen Beatrix exchanged orders. Sultan Qaboos conferred the Al Saeed Order on the Queen who conferred on the Lion of Holland

Order on the Omani ruler.

Sultan Qaboos conferred the Renaissance Grand Order on Dutch Crown Prince, William Alexander and Sultan Qaboos Order "First Class" to his wife Princess Maxima.

The Omani monarch also conferred Al Nu'man Order "first second and third Class" to a number of ministers and high ranking officials in the Dutch delegation. Queen Beatrix conferred orders on Their Highnesses, ministers and senior officials in the Sultanate.

A MoU in the field of technical education and vocational training was signed by Abdullah Bin Nasser Al Bakri, Manpower Minister and Uri Rosenthal, Minister of Foreign Affairs in the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Dr. Muna Bint Salim Al Jardani, Undersecretary at the Manpower Ministry for Technical Education and Vocational Training said that the MoU includes the exchange of visits among Omani and Dutch specialists, reviewing the Dutch experience in the

field of technical education and vocational training and benefiting from the things that are compatible with the educational systems applied in the vocational training centers and technical colleges. She added that the Manpower Ministry will immediately implement the MoU.

Another agreement worth 27,650,000 Omani riyals was signed between the Transport and Communications Ministry and Vanderlande Industries International Company of Holland for the supply, in-

stallation, testing and operating of the luggage handling systems for Muscat and Salalah International Airports.

During a reception at the Bustan Palace Hotel for Queen Beatrix, which was attended by a number of ministers and Omani businessmen, Maxime Verhagen, Dutch Minister of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation said that the second visit by the Queen of the Netherlands will enhance horizons of mutual cooperation between the two countries.



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## Lion's Club of Aruba will welcome esteemed Dr. Lucy Young for a public lecture



**Arnold Lett and Claret Lopez with picture of Dr. Young**

The Lion's Club of Aruba is celebrating their 64th anniversary of existence on the island, and as the organization is dedicated to community service, they will open their year of festivities by

welcoming one of the most renowned researchers and practicing ophthalmologists in the world, Dr. Lucy Young, for an informative symposium for the public on loss of eyesight due to diabetes.

"Diabetes Retinopathy" is one of Dr. Young's specialties, along with corneal cancer, and will be the subject of her talk. She is a respected member of one of the most advance eye specialty centers in the U.S., Massachusetts Eye and Ear.

Dr. Young graduated Harvard with a degree in biology and studied medicine at the University of Wisconsin, then returned to Harvard Medical School where she performed her residency in Ophthalmology at Mass Eye & Ear. She



**Lion's president Claret Lopez and organizers of event**

is an Associate Professor of Ophthalmology at Harvard Medical School and her clinical and research specialties include: Diabetic retinopathy, macular degeneration, retinal detachment, trauma-related retinal complications, AIDS-related retinal infections, uveitis.

Lion's Club President Claret Lopez expressed the organization's extreme concern over the explosive increase of diabetes worldwide, but particularly on Aruba, over the past decade. In the past year, a record number of limb amputations were required that were diabetes related; 162 to 180 are taking place annually. One of the most frequent causes of blindness is diabetes, and the Aruban population should be aware of how common a

problem this has become.

"We have been trying for ten years to get Dr. Young to come and speak in Aruba," commented Arnold Lett, one of those organizing the event. "She is extremely knowledgeable and personable; a fascinating speaker with an important message, we wish we could accommodate more than the 250 seats the Marriott Ballroom will allow."

Dr. Young will be speaking on Friday evening, January 27 from 8:00 to 10:00 PM in ballroom of the Marriott Aruba Resort & Stellaris Casino. Lion's club members can be contacted to reserve a place, or visit their headquarters on Englandstraat next to the FEPO offices, for more information.

*by Rosalie Klein*

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## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### With eye on Romney, Obama talks jobs

WASHINGTON (AFP) - President Barack Obama sought to strike an implicit contrast with his most likely general election foe Mitt Romney yesterday, imploring big businesses to bring home US jobs outsourced overseas.

Obama gathered consulting professionals and company chiefs at the White House hours after Romney won the New Hampshire nominating primary, despite a blizzard of attacks on the Republican frontrunner's claims to be a job creator.

The president acknowledged business executives worried about "the bottom line" of profit and competition, but said they also had a wider moral and patriotic imperative to spur employment in the United States.

"That's part of the responsibility that comes with being a leader in America -- a responsibility not just to the shareholder or the stakeholder, but to this country that made this incredible wealth and opportunity all possible."

"That's a responsibility we all have to live up to -- whether in the private or public sector, whether we are in Washington

or on Wall Street," Obama said.

White House officials insist that Obama has not yet started to focus on his bid for a second term in November, but is instead concentrating every day on his job, which he sees as reviving the economy and cutting unemployment.

But it was difficult not to hear an echo in his words of Democratic attacks on Romney, who has been branded as a heartless business predator responsible for laying off workers to spur profits as an executive at equity firm Bain Capital.

The decision to schedule Obama's event on the day after Romney's triumph in the New Hampshire primary also seemed more than a coincidence.

Unemployment and the direction of the economy as it struggles back after the worst recession since the 1930s Great Depression are shaping up as the key issues of November's election in which embattled Obama will seek a second term.

Obama says the middle class has been overtaken by an economy in which the rich and

big business dominate and deprive the middle classes of what he says is the traditional "fair shake" to improve their lives.

Romney argues that Obama's predilection for government solutions has hampered free enterprise, shackled job creating small businesses and slowed the recovery from the recession.

Aides said Obama would in coming weeks propose measures, including tax incentives, to convince US companies which have outsourced jobs offshore to maximize efficiency and profit, to bring those positions back home.

"My message to business leaders today is simple -- ask yourselves what you can do to bring jobs back to the country that made our success possible -- and I am going to do everything in my power to help you do it," Obama said.

"We are going to have to seize this moment," Obama said, arguing that with rising labor costs overseas and a thirst for innovation in the world economy, America was positioned to reverse the flight of jobs growth overseas.

### Romney roars ahead with second US vote victory

MANCHESTER (AFP) - Mitt Romney, buoyed by a commanding win in the New Hampshire primary, took his campaign south yesterday as the clear Republican frontrunner to take on President Barack Obama.

The former Massachusetts governor and millionaire venture capitalist immediately looked to South Carolina's January 21 primary, hoping a victory there and in Florida on January 31 could effectively anoint him the nominee.

"I have a good start. I have an uphill climb in South Carolina ahead of me, but it

could not have worked better last night," Romney told the NBC "Today" show yesterday, following his victory in the New Hampshire primary, a week after a narrow win in Iowa caucuses.

Public opinion polls showed Romney leading his more conservative rivals in both of the next battlegrounds -- large states where his well-oiled, well-funded campaign machine could roll up the opposition.

With more than 95 percent of votes counted, Romney was set to win New Hampshire with about 39 percent, the first time since 1976 that

a Republican non-incumbent wins this contest and the Iowa caucuses that precede it.

After surviving a furious 11th-hour onslaught from his Republican rivals, who tarred him as a callous corporate raider who put people out of work, Romney defiantly trumpeted his business experience as his number-one asset.

A Quinnipiac College poll in Florida, a key swing state in the November election, showed Romney a likely winner over Obama by 46 to 43 percent.

Romney has insisted that his private sector triumphs make him the best person to take on Obama, whose re-election bid is weighed down by the sagging US economy and high unemployment.

He has accused Obama of wanting to "put free enterprise on trial," and yesterday accused some of his Republican opponents of having become "witnesses for (the) prosecution."

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### Russian ship battles to rescue in ice-bound Alaska

LOS ANGELES - A Russian ship carrying desperately needed fuel battled through ice yesterday to reach parts of frigid Alaska cut off by a severe winter storm in the US state, reports and officials said.

The Russian tanker the "Renda" followed a US Coast Guard ice-breaker towards the town of Nome on Alaska's remote western coast, across the Bering sea from Russia's far east.

The bone-chilling weather is harsh even by Alaska's standards, with huge snowdrifts and temperatures plunging down to 35 below zero Celsius (minus 31 Fahrenheit), according to the National Weather Service data.

The Russian ship is carrying 1.3 million gallons of fuel for Nome, a city of some, 3,500 people which did not get its usual pre-winter oil delivery due to a storm in the fall.

If successful, the shipment would mark the first time petroleum products have been delivered by sea to a Western Alaska community in winter.

A special waiver had to be granted to allow the "Renda" to head to the rescue, as normally only US-owned and operated vessels would be allowed to make such deliveries, under a 1920 US law.



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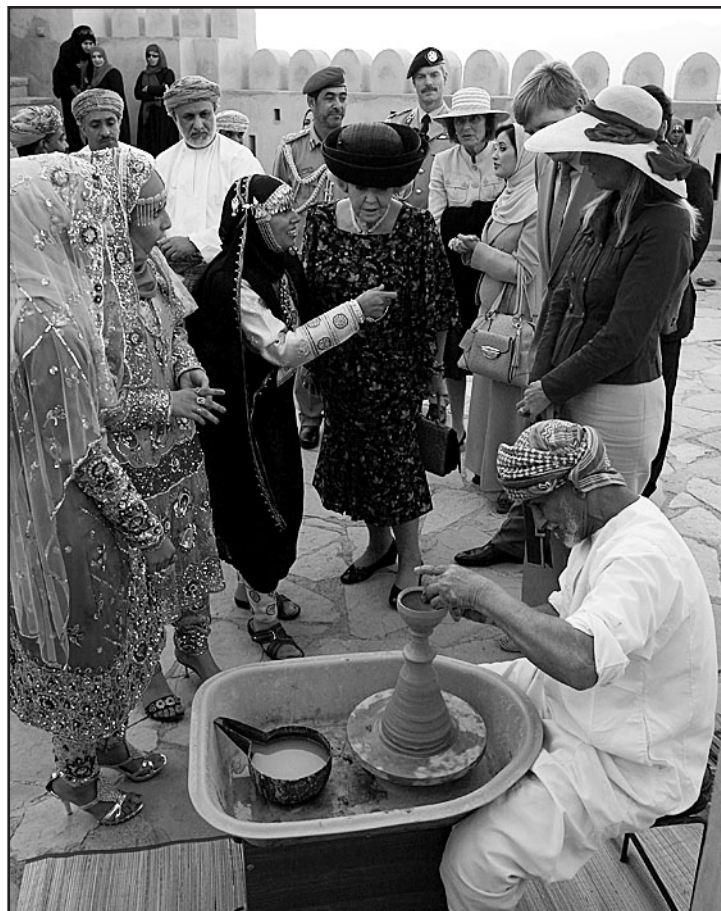
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## INTERNATIONAL NEWS



MUSCAT, Oman -- The Netherlands' Queen Beatrix watches a potter during their visit to the Nakhal Fort, some 100 kms north of the capital Muscat, on January 11, 2012, during her state visit to Oman. Netherland's Prince Willem-Alexander and princess Maxima stand right. (AFP PHOTO)

## France demands probe into killing of TV reporter in Syria

PARIS (AFP) - Paris demanded an investigation yesterday after French television reporter Gilles Jacquier was killed in the Syrian city of Homs, a center of opposition to the regime of President Bashar al-Assad.

He was the first Western reporter to die in Syria since protests against Assad's regime erupted in March.

According to an AFP reporter at the scene, a shell exploded amid a group of journalists covering demonstrations in the city on a visit organised by the authorities in Syria. Several more people

were reported wounded.

One of those hurt was a Belgian journalist who was hit in the eye.

A Dutch photographer was reign ministry said, adding that he had been treated and already released from hospital.

The Syrian information ministry said it was aware of an incident involving foreign journalists, but could not provide any further details.

Global press watchdog Reporters Without Borders also demanded an inquiry, and called on the Arab League observers deployed to monitor the Syrian conflict to play a role.

## Envoy: Iran nuclear plant violates UN resolutions

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) - Western UN envoys yesterday condemned Iran's enrichment of uranium at a new underground bunker of facility as a "clear breach" of UN sanctions resolutions over the nuclear program.

Britain, France, Germany and the United States raised the new developments at the UN Security Council. Enrichment at the Qom facility was "a further clear breach of Security Council resolutions," said Britain's deputy ambassador Philip Parham.

The Western nations raised concerns at the council because the new plant has no

"credible civilian use" and was "a further violation" of UN Security Council and International Atomic Energy Agency resolutions, added France's deputy envoy Martin Briens.

The UN Security Council has passed six resolutions and four rounds of sanctions against Iran over the nuclear drive which the Western allies say hides a covert effort to build a nuclear bomb. Iran denies the charge.

Russia and China are likely to block any new sanctions move however despite the escalating confrontation between Iran and its international foes.

"We will work with our

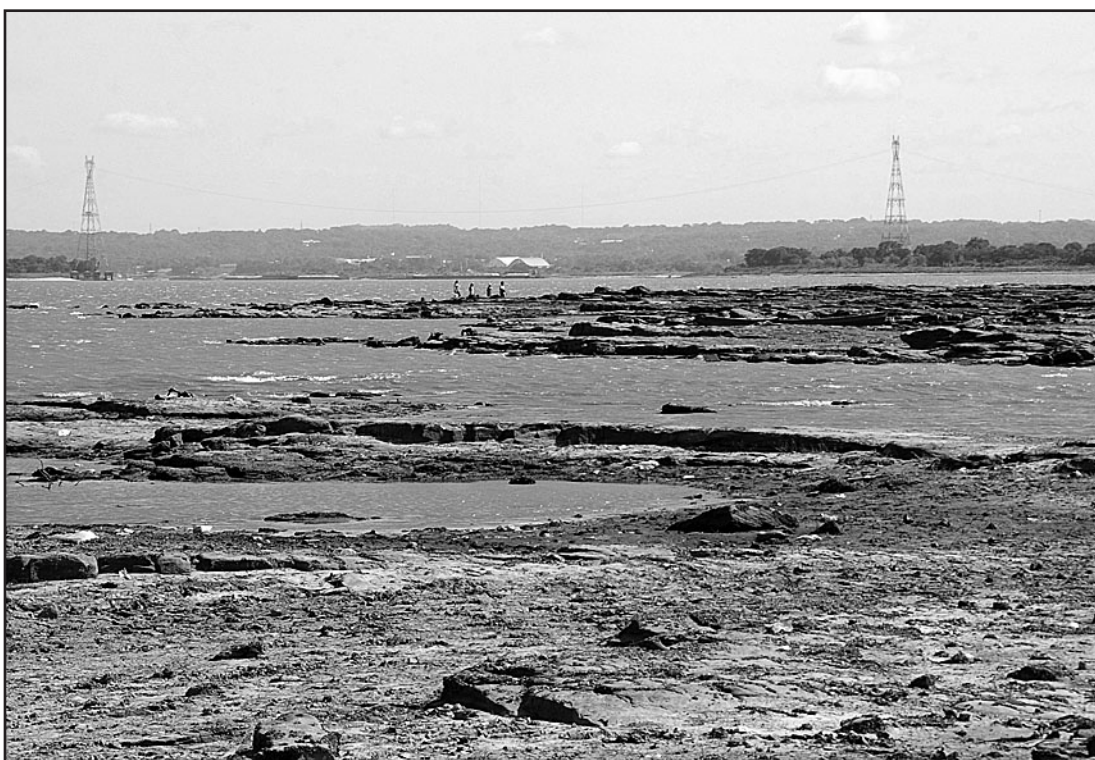
partners to consider what the next steps are going to be," said Briens when asked about the next Security Council steps could be.

The Western nations reaffirmed their policy of seeking talks with Iran while pressuring the Islamic Republic with sanctions.

"What is important is that the dual track is open at the moment," Parham told reporters as he urged Iran to return to talks.

"We keep on trying to get serious negotiations to start but so far Iran has not responded," said the French envoy.

## Wild weather hits Latin America



AFP photo shows rocks, commonly covered by the waters of the Paraguay River in Villeta - 35 Km south of Asuncion, exposed. A severe drought has exposed huge sandbanks and rocks on the Paraguay River, the main commercial waterway to the Rio de la Plata, affecting trade in this South American landlocked country. From Chile to Colombia to Mexico, Latin America has been battered recently by wildfires, floods and droughts. While leading climate scientists are unable to pin any single flood or heat wave solely on climate change, experts say the number of extreme weather events is increasing worldwide and the evidence suggests global warming is having an impact.





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## Health & Living

# Dutch urge removal of faulty PIP breast implants

THE HAGUE (AFP) - Dutch health authorities on Wednesday recommended the removal of breast implants made by now-defunct French company PIP after conflicting reports about the product's safety.

The joint recommendations by the association and the Dutch health authority inspectorate were made in the light of "uncertainties in diverse publications" over the issue affecting around 1,000 women in the Netherlands.

About 300,000 women in 65 countries are estimated to have received implants made by Poly Implant Prothese (PIP), which allegedly used an illegal industrial-grade gel rather than medical quality silicone.

Investigators say the unauthorised gel has led to abnormally high rates of ruptured or leaking implants and more than a dozen countries in Europe and Latin America have urged women to have check-ups.

Dutch health authorities said last month that women with PIP implants, sold locally under the name "M-Implants", should consult their doctors or seek medical advice at clinics.

PIP's products were banned in the Netherlands in early 2010 and in September that year it was first recommended that women with the implants see their physicians.

But "ultimately it's the woman's choice whether to wear the prostheses in consultation with a doctors or to remove them," Dutch health authority

inspectorate spokeswoman Diane Bouhuijs told AFP.

Around 84 percent of breast implants made in France by PIP, which went into liquidation in March 2010, were exported to Latin America, Spain and Britain.

In France, 20 women with the implants have been diagnosed with cancer, 16 of them with breast cancer, although there is no indication that the implants caused the disease.

France's health ministry last month advised 30,000 women with the PIP implants to have them removed.

Germany, where according to press reports some 7,500 women were affected, has also recommended the removal of defective breast implants.

Despite around 40,000 British women wearing the prostheses, London has so far said breast implant removals would not be justified.

About 1,000 women from South America plan to sue PIP over the implants, their lawyer said Tuesday.

Lawyer Arie Alimi said about 500 Argentinian women and an equal number from Venezuela were planning to be civil plaintiffs in the probe by French police into PIP and its founder Jean-Claude Mas.

Mas, 72, said last week that much of the information emerging in the scandal was untrue but refused further comment.

In a statement he denounced the "impressive number of untruths" over the affair said he

would refrain from making other public comments because of a judicial investigation.

## Two years after Haiti quake, health system 'in disarray'

GENEVA (AFP) - The number of hospitals in the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince two years after its earthquake are not sufficient to serve the population, Medecins sans Frontieres said Wednesday.

"According to health standards, we need a hospital for every 150,000 inhabitants," Kenneth Lavelle, responsible for the coordination of projects in Haiti for the international medical organisation, told AFP.

"Today, there are only four hospitals open for all in Port-au-Prince", which has a population of some three million people, he noted.

Access to health care remains difficult in the rest of the country two years after the earthquake that struck on January 12, 2010, killing at least 200,000 people in Haiti.

In rural areas, "access to free health care is a real problem," Lavelle said.

There are, however, "private facilities", as well as non-profit organizations that ask minimum charges from patients for medical help.

Even so, "people cannot afford" to go to such institutions, according to Lavelle.

He acknowledged, however, that even before the earthquake struck, "the need was huge."

Two years after the disaster, the risks remain in the field of construction, according to John Harding of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction. "The main factors are still there," he told AFP.

## LA votes to force porn actors to wear condoms

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Los Angeles city lawmakers voted Tuesday to require porn actors to wear condoms on set, the latest move in a battle between AIDS activists and the California-based US adult film industry.

In a vote which must be confirmed next week, the City Council approved by 11 to 1 an ordinance to enforce the condom requirement and make companies pay a fee for a film permit to finance inspections.

The vote came after the AIDS Healthcare Foundation, which has long campaigned for condom use on porn sets, collected enough signatures to force LA city fathers either to pass the ordinance, or organize a costly public vote.

AHF President Michael Weinstein described the vote as a step toward regulating what he called the "machine that was promoting unsafe sex" in the US porn film industry, based in the San Fernando Valley north of Los Angeles.

But Nina Hartley, a registered nurse and porn actress since 1984, blasted the ordinance.

She said adult film shoots require sexual intercourse that lasts 30-60 minutes, and that wearing a condom for that long would lead to chafing, open sores and a greater risk of transmitting diseases.

"It's a disaster for health and safety. I know it looks different from the outside, but it will not work to protect anybody," she said.

California porn film makers were forced to suspend production temporarily last year after an actor tested positive for HIV, the virus which causes AIDS, in the latest such disruption to the multi-billion-dollar industry.

Weinstein dismissed warnings that the new LA ordinance would increase the number of illegal porn shoots. "We don't not have regulations of restaurants because somebody is going to have a hot dog cart that is unregulated," he said.

"We don't say that you can build a skyscraper without any worker protections because somebody is putting up dry-wall in somebody's garage," he added.

Film L.A., which issues permits for film companies shooting in the West Coast city, said about five percent of the 45,500 permit days the agency issues per year are for porn shoots.



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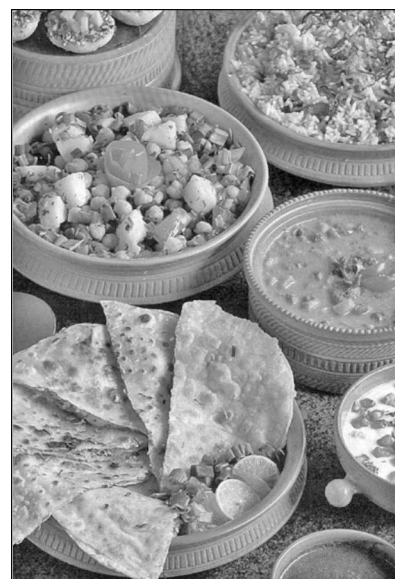


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# Outrage over Indian islands 'human zoo' video



(AFP) - Rights campaigners and politicians Wednesday condemned a video showing women from a protected and primitive tribe dancing for tourists reportedly in exchange for food on India's Andaman Islands.

British newspaper The Observer released the undated video showing Jarawa tribal women -- some of them naked -- being lured to dance and

sing after a bribe was allegedly paid to a policeman to produce them.

Under Indian laws designed to protect ancient tribal groups susceptible to outside influence and disease, photographing or coming into contact with the Jarawa and some of the Andaman aborigines is banned.

The tribe, thought to have been among the first people to

migrate successfully from Africa to Asia, lives a nomadic existence in the lush, tropical forests of the Andamans in the Indian Ocean.

India's Tribal Affairs Minister V. Kishore Chandra Deo on Wednesday said an investigation had been ordered.

"An inquiry has been ordered and it is being headed by the chief secretary and director-general of police of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands," Deo told the Press Trust of India news agency.

"It's deplorable. You cannot treat human beings like beasts for the sake of money. Whatever kind of tourism is that, I totally disapprove of that and it is being banned also," the minister added.

Survival International, which lobbies on behalf of tribal groups worldwide, said the video showed tourists apparently enjoying "human zoos."

"Quite clearly, some peo-

ple's attitudes towards tribal peoples haven't moved on a jot. The Jarawa are not circus ponies bound to dance at anyone's bidding," said Stephen Corry, the group's director, in a press release.

But state anthropologist A. Justin, who works on the Andaman islands, questioned whether the scenes were recent.

"Before the 2004 tsunami, people might have forced them to dance and there may have been some much smaller violations since then," Justin said by telephone from the capital Port Blair.

"Since the tsunami, a policy of maximum autonomy with minimum intervention has been put in place. Things are being taken care of these days. There is a lot of (security) coverage there now."

Justin said the video appeared to be several years old, while police in Port Blair also suggested it was taken some time ago.

"The video appears to be six to seven years old when Jarawas remained unclothed but now they wear dresses in public," Director-General of Police Samsher Deol said.

"Nonetheless we have launched a probe because we want to know who is the

videographer who has committed an offence and we also want to know who bribed and who has been bribed," Deol said.

The Observer report said its journalist had recently seen tourists throw bananas and biscuits to tribespeople on the roadside, and had been told by local traders how much to bribe the police to spend a day out with the Jarawa.

In June last year, Survival International accused eight Indian travel companies of running "human safari tours" so tourists could see and photograph the Jarawa.

The London-based group called for tourists to boycott the road used to enter the reserve of the Jarawa tribe, who number just 403 and are in danger of dying out.

The Andaman and Nicobar tropical island chain is home to four other rare tribes -- Onge, the Great Andamanese, the Sentinelese and the Shompens -- each numbering fewer than 350 members.

Another tribe called Bo died out in January 2010.

The video can be viewed at <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/video/2012/jan/07/andaman-islanders-human-safari-video>

## CES gadget fair 'geeks' get peek at sex tech



(AFP) - In a nightclub on the edge of the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas, adult entertainment stars gave gadget geeks a glimpse at the steamier side of new Internet technology.

Porn studio Pink Visual opted to introduce the "geek universe" to its performers in a "tech forward" event late Tuesday, a few steps away from CES, after its bid to exhibit at the consumer gizmo extravaganza was rebuffed.

"We want to break down the stigma," Pink president Allison Vivas told AFP.

"There is no reason that adult entertainment can't be a mainstream event and be represented professionally to adult consumers."

Nearby, Lexi Belle wore an

iPad like a pendant necklace and challenged guests to pick her breasts from an array of options.

"Technology has gone so wide these days that you could watch my scenes online right now on your smartphone or on Lexi's chest," Alexis Texas said with a nod toward her fellow Pink star.

"This is the new wave of the market and it is where we are going," she said. "The internet is what is in; so we go back to the drawing board and find ways to give people what they want and make money at the same time."

Innovations on display at the party-like event included a Real Touch device for men that simulated the feeling of having sex.

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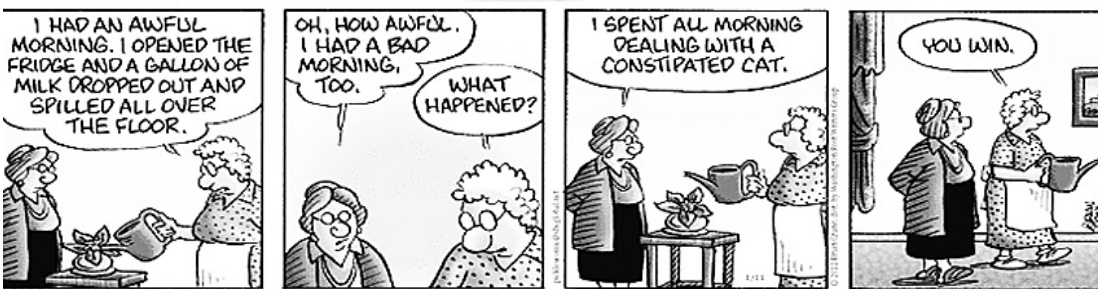
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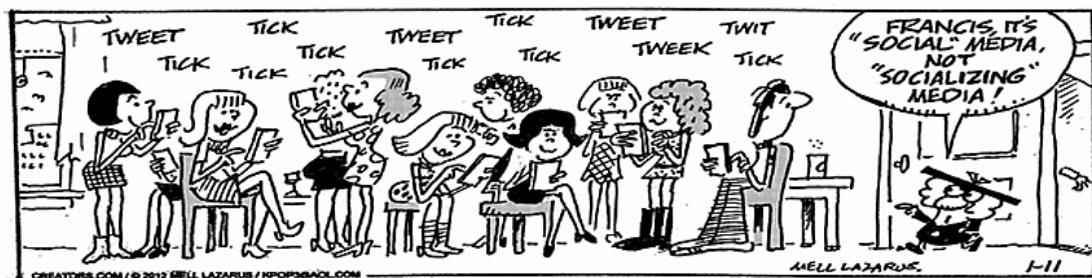


## COMICS

## PICKLES



## MOMMA



## CALVIN and HOBBS



## CROSSWORD

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## AN UNSURE THING

## ACROSS

1. Eightsome
6. Author Waugh
10. Actor Adam
14. Perfect number, to Pythagoras
15. Almost, to a bard
16. Creation of Pierre's brain
17. Iffy
19. Achy
20. Be obliged
21. Boasters have big ones
22. Shearson's partner
24. Acuff of C&W
25. Seductive
26. Chatterbox
30. Blunder, informally
33. \_\_\_ meringue pie
34. Yvette's

35. husband "\_\_\_! poor Yorick..."
37. Net surfer
38. Silk: prefix
39. Use shears
40. Froglike amphibian
41. Red-coated cheese
42. Togo's western neighbor
43. Anticipate problems
45. Craftiest
46. Moon trench
47. Frat letter
48. Theater district
51. Distinctive times
52. \_\_\_ chi ch'uan (martial art)
55. Small case
56. Anyone's prize
59. Famous

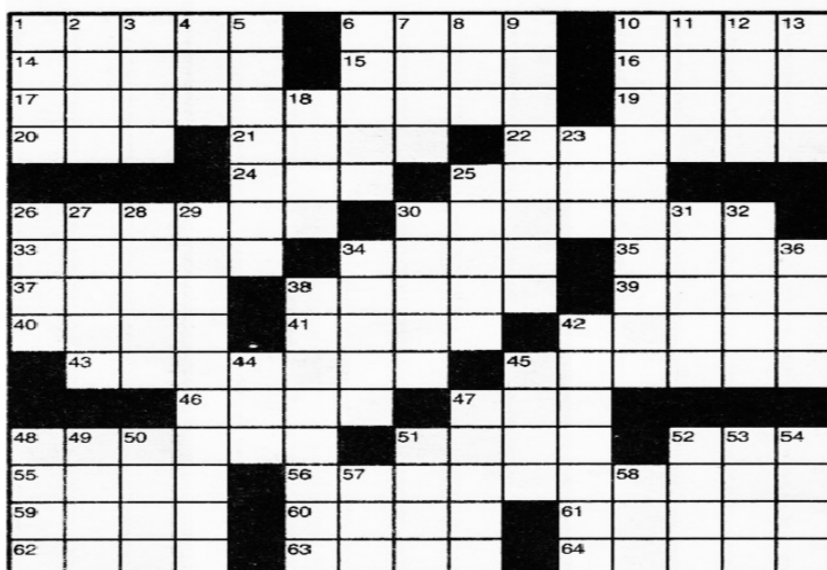
## Friend William

60. Asian holidays
61. Fiber for caulking ships
62. Indulge
63. MS.
64. Sharpens accompaniment

## DOWN

1. Broadway lyricist Harbach
2. Food, slangily
3. "One \_\_\_ Thing" (1998 film)
4. Inits. for the Common Market
5. Carpet-exporting capital

6. Harass
7. Caps
8. Ukrainian craft object
9. Hot-tempered
10. Indecisive
11. Esau's country
12. Blood parts
13. Avril Lavigne fan, probably
18. Brimming with anticipation
23. River in Devon
25. Curtain fabric
26. Satiated
27. "\_\_\_ and Son" ("Bullwinkle" show feature)
28. Smudge
29. Dubious
30. Tough thermoplastic resin
31. Arm bones
32. Care
34. Hero's comeuppance
36. Quarrel
38. Hit shows
42. Seaport in Scotland
44. Mine
45. Polaris, e.g.
47. Uneven
48. Dems.' opponents
49. Virginia willow
50. Family-circle member
51. Small amphibians
52. Appropriate
53. Adjoin
54. Distinctive doctrines
57. Shade of green
58. Cheer-ful expression



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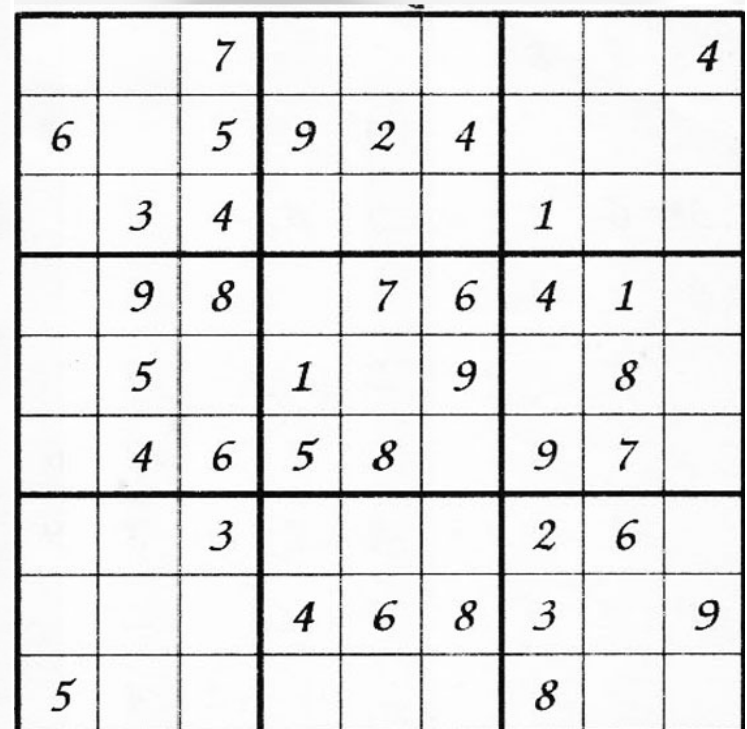
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## Sudoku




## SOLUTION

4	7	8	2	1	5	6	9	3
6	5	9	2	4	1	7	8	3
3	4	1	9	8	7	6	5	2
9	8	7	6	4	1	3	2	5
5	1	9	8	3	7	6	4	2
4	6	5	8	9	7	2	1	3
3	2	6	1	5	9	8	7	4
4	6	8	3	9	7	2	1	5
5	8	2	9	7	6	4	3	1

Complete the grid so that every  
row and every column contains  
the numbers 1 through 9A number is Never repeated  
in a row or column.In addition every rectangle must  
contain the numbers 1 through 9







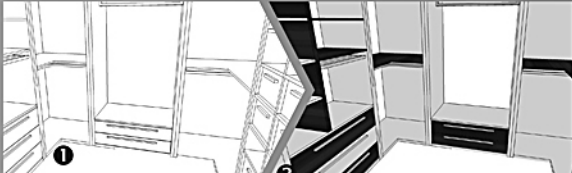

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## Iconic US Twinkie baker files bankruptcy

WASHINGTON, (AFP) - Hostess Brands, the baker of Twinkie cakes and other iconic American foods, filed for bankruptcy protection yesterday after failing to win concessions on union contracts.

Founded in 1930, Hostess owns brands that were emblematic of American food for generations.

Its popular Twinkie, a snack cake with a creamy filling, was launched that year.

The company claims its Wonder bread, a vitamin-enriched sliced bread, was the first 100 percent natural bread available across the United States.

The privately held company filed a Chapter 11 bankruptcy reorganization in a New York federal court, less than three years after emerging from a 2004 bankruptcy filing.

Hostess also announced it had received a pledge of \$75 million in financing from a group of its lenders to enable the company to continue routine operations while restructuring.

The financing is subject to court approval.

The company said it did not anticipate any disruptions in the manufacturing and delivery of any of its bread or cake products.

## Finance

## Bank: Skyscrapers have 'unhealthy' link to financial crises

LONDON (AFP) - The construction of enormous skyscrapers has an "unhealthy" link with looming financial crises and investors should therefore keep a close eye on China and India, Barclays Capital said yesterday.

China is currently the biggest builder of skyscrapers, while booming India is constructing the second largest tower in the world, the investment bank said in its latest annual 'Skyscraper Index' survey.

"Our Skyscraper Index continues to show an unhealthy correlation between construction of the next world's tallest building and an impending financial crisis -- New York 1930; Chicago 1974; Kuala Lumpur 1997 and Dubai 2010," Barclays Capital said in a report. Yet often the world's tallest buildings are simply the edifice of a broader skyscraper building boom, reflecting a widespread misallocation of capital and an impending economic correction.

"Investors should therefore pay particular attention to China, today's biggest builder... and India, which with just two completed skyscrapers, now has 14 skyscrapers under construction."

Barclays Capital warned of a "bubble" in China, whose property boom has been powered by cheap liquidity. "Looking forward, using skyscrapers under construction, it is evident that the skyscraper boom in China continues to grow," it said.

"China will complete 53 percent of the 124 skyscrapers under construction over the next six years, expanding the number in Chinese cities by a staggering 87 percent."

"China's skyscrapers are not only increasing in number -- it now has 75 completed skyscrapers above 240 meters in height -- but the average height of the skyscrapers that it is building is also increasing as

past liquidity fuels the construction boom."

Barclays Capital meanwhile added that India was set to experience its largest boom in skyscraper construction.

"China is not alone in the growth of its building bubble ... India it seems is playing catchup," said Barclays Capital, the investment arm of major British bank Barclays.

"Today India has only two of the world's 276 skyscrapers over 240 meters (788 feet) in height, yet over the next five years it intends to complete 14 new skyscrapers, in what will prove to be its largest skyscraper building boom."

"Worryingly as well, India is also constructing the second tallest building in the world, the Tower of India, which should complete by 2016."

"The writing, so to speak, would seem to be already on the glass curtain walling."

"For if history proves to be right, this building boom in China and India could simply be a reflection of a misallocation of capital, which may result in an economic correction for two of Asia's largest economies in the next five years," Barclays Capital concluded in its report.

## Belgium opens inquiry after diamond trade controversy

BRUSSELS (AFP) - Belgium's justice minister ordered an inquiry yesterday linked to a growing controversy over possible tax fraud among diamond traders in the port city of Antwerp.

Justice Minister Annemie Turtelboom called for an investigation into media allegations that members of the prosecutor's office last month lunched at a temple for Indian diamond traders, who in recent years have elbowed into the business once run by members of the Jewish community.

The inquiry, which she said

would look at the independence of the judiciary, follows media suspicions of massive tax fraud in the city.

French authorities in September handed deputy prosecutor Peter Van Calster a list of 800 residents of Belgium, including 170 diamond dealers, suspected of placing more than one billion dollars in Switzerland.

But the region's general prosecutor, Yves Liegeois, accused him of failing to register the list within three weeks, as required.

### YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

PALE DIANAS FBI  
ALEC ENGINE LAC  
LIGHTFOOTED ARE  
ERE LASSES  
PELLER ETAH  
ELIOT OTO ELLAS  
SIGN GRIPED IST  
EDHS AILED AGHA  
TET ALBERT SHOT  
ASHES IDA ASTRO  
ORCA AMUSER  
GOUGES LOA  
ADS NIGHTLIGHTS  
TEE TARAWA EARP  
ERS SNOOPY STAY



### Daily Exchange Rates

Current as of: 01/11/2012	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada	CAD	1.73	1.75	1.77
Britain	GBP	2.68	2.73	2.79
Switzerland	CHF	186.71	187.43	188.23
Netherlands	EUR	224.47	226.51	228.79
Sweden	SEK	24.72	25.44	26.24
Denmark	DKK	29.49	30.21	31.01
Norway	NOK	28.64	29.36	30.16
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## Swearing and nudity: US Supreme Court eyes indecency

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The US Supreme Court Tuesday questioned whether battling indecency made sense in these times, in a case involving blurted broadcasting of curse words, and TV series' bare buttocks shots.

Justices reviewing the case were vocally divided. Some insisted on keeping regulation in place while others stressed that the vast number of cable channels meant much programming already escaped federal regulation. Others argued that new technologies made it easier to implement parental controls.

On the heels of a string of incidents on different networks, the court was asked by the Federal Communications Commission, FCC, whether its decency-minded regulation was in line with the Constitution and freedom of speech.

In some of the incidents under the microscope, singer-actress Cher and reality TV star Nicole Richie used swear words during ceremonies that were broadcast live on Fox television.

In another, an episode of the series "NYPD Blue" broadcast

on ABC pictured a nude woman from behind as she entered a shower.

The networks' case won a boost when a New York appeals court ruled that the definition of indecency on television and radio was constitutionally unclear, and ran counter to free speech.

But the FCC, with members named by the government, appealed.

Government attorney Donald Verrilli, representing the FCC, argued that the networks should be a "safe haven" at times when children typically are watching television.

On public airwaves, "the government is entitled to insisting on a certain modicum of decency," conservative justice Antonin Scalia said.

"All the government is asking for are a few channels where you are not going to hear the F-word and the S-word and... see nudity," added chief justice John Roberts, another conservative.

Justice Ruth Ginsburg, considered a progressive, asked why the FCC wanted to battle swear words on television, but still approved broadcast of

Steven Spielberg's "Saving Private Ryan," known to contain plenty of cursing.

Apparently "nobody can use dirty words or nudity but Steven Spielberg," noted Justice Elena Kagan, another progressive.

She said the FCC was acting arbitrarily on whether bare flesh was fit for television.

"Sometimes it's allowed -- as to some body parts -- and sometimes it's not allowed," she added.

Carter Phillips, an attorney for Fox made his case for an uncensored cuss: "It's inevitable, regardless, that people are going to continue to use language that they would naturally use. So yes, I do think you can expect on cable and any other forum in which you have humans speaking that this kind of language will expand."

"The time has come to treat equally broadcast and... cable TV," he urged.

The current definition of indecency, barring some change, involves images that show or describe sex organs or sexual activities, which in addition are shocking under prevailing social norms.

## No new evidence in Natalie Wood death probe: police

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - US police have found no new evidence that the mystery 1981 death of Hollywood actress Natalie Wood was a homicide rather than an accident, The Los Angeles Times reported.

The LA County Sheriff's Department reopened the file into the screen icon's drowning in November, assigning two murder detectives to revive the case which has long fueled speculation, despite being deemed an accident at the time.

But William McSweeney, the sheriff's chief of detectives, told the LA Times that several weeks of new interviews and other investigative work had turned up no evidence that the death was a homicide.

The death of the "West Side Story" and "Rebel Without a Cause" star at age 43 has long been a Hollywood mystery -- but was thought to have been laid to rest, until November's surprise announcement that police were reviving a probe.

The captain of the boat on which the couple were holidaying said her actor husband Robert Wagner had a fierce row with his wife shortly before she vanished, and then delayed a search which could have saved her.

Dennis Davern, former captain of the "Splendour" -- and who has co-written a book about the tragedy -- said he thought Wagner was responsible for her death on the night of November 29, 1981.



January - Wk 2

**Saturday Jan. 14:** Election Prins & Pancho (Aruba Entertainment Center) - 7 p.m.

**Sunday Jan. 15:** Inscription Tumba Contest - Centro di Bario Playa Pabao - 5 p.m. - 12 p.m.



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## Haute Cuisine in Palm Beach? Very AMUSE-ing!



Patrick and Yvette welcome you

Our taste testers at THE MORNING NEWS have just enjoyed the most amazing, amusing dining experience, conveniently located in Palm Beach, in a cozy, attractive bistro at the Playa Linda Resort. Chef Patrick and his wife Yvette welcome you to Amuse, their French inspired bistro, where they share their passion for fine food and the classic art of cooking, enhances with a dash of Caribbean flare.

Patrick has opened his own place after years of establishing the reputation of some of Aruba's finest restaurants. He is adamant about creating his sauces and specialties strictly from scratch; nothing is out of the box or can and all ingredients are fresh - he even grows his

own herbs and spices, and believe it or not, churns his own fresh made ice cream daily! Imagine a sumptuous desert of the creamiest

Red Wine Ice Cream served up with a rich, moist, brownie, or Pineapple Carpaccio with fresh churned Cinnamon Ice Cream, and you have a finish for your dinner that will have you returning again the next day to try one of his other remarkable specialties.

Patrick is well aware that a memorable meal is a feast for all the sense, and his dishes are as pleasing to the eye as they are to the pallet and your wallet. One would expect to pay very high prices for such effort, but their menu is quite reasonably priced. Amuse also provides the option of selecting a dish in main course or half plate, appetizer size,

which is very nice if you would prefer to taste a wide sample of their delectable offerings. The restaurant also prides itself on an excellent wine cellar to provide the perfect pairing for the gourmet food. Menus change to some degree with the seasons, taking advantage of what is fresh and best for the time of year.

Amuse is named for the tradition of an "amuse-bouche" a chef's selection for something special to tantalize the taste buds, and patrons will find it a most appropriate moniker, as Patrick's exceptional sauces and artful presentation will provide a most memorable meal.

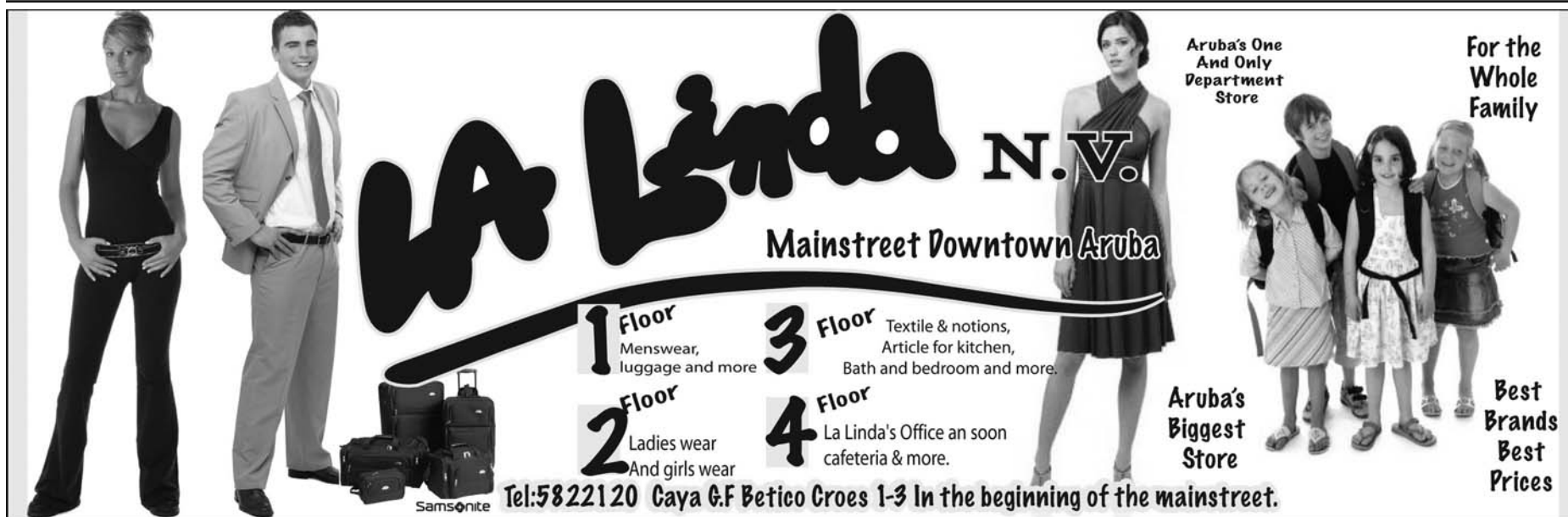


Amuse is open daily for dinner from 5:30 to 10:30 PM.

However, if wishing to dine at peak hours, Yvette recommends calling 586-9949 for reservations well ahead; they are happy to take walk-ins anytime before 7:30 PM.

The charming logistics of the bistro allows patrons to enjoy the al fresco ambiance of a Parisian sidewalk café while still being protected from the weather; it is rightfully becoming quite a popular place to savor fine dining combined with Aruba's tropical ambiance.





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## SPORTS

# Peterson manager blasts 'unprofessional' Khan



Amir Khan (R) punches Lamont Peterson during their WBA Super Lightweight and IBF Junior Welterweight title fight at Washington Convention Center in December 2011 in Washington, DC.

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Lamont Peterson's manager Wednesday blasted Amir Khan and Golden Boy Promotions for their refusal to accept the British boxing star's defeat by the American last month.

"It would be an understatement to characterize Lamont as being disappointed in the unprofessional manner in which Khan is attempting to discredit his performance in the ring and victory," Barry Hunter, Peterson's manager/trainer said in a statement.

Khan lost both his World Boxing Association and International Boxing Federation light-welterweight titles after home-town fighter Peterson was awarded a controversial split-decision victory following their bout in Washington on December 10.

The 25-year-old Khan had questioned the performance of referee Joe Cooper and aired grievances over alleged inconsistencies with the judges' scorecards, finally turning his attention to a mystery individual at ringside, later identified

as an IBF official who was there as a spectator.

"Khan blames everyone and everything but his performance and lack of ability to make adjustments in the ring for his loss," Hunter said. "He claims that the Ring Announcer privately stated he won, then that the referee's discretionary actions should be overruled, then a mystery man in a black hat with no association to the Peterson Camp somehow affected the outcome of the bout, and also that the judges did not score the Bout correctly.

"Each claim is boldly false, but because Golden Boy and Khan have the financial resources to file protests and lawyers to create questionable accusations we are forced to address these issues."

Hunter charged that Golden Boy has gone on a media blitz "as some form of retaliation" against Peterson after the American's camp refused their offer of a rematch just days after the fight.

"Real Champions don't continue to come up with various excuses and false accusations in hopes that something will stick to cover up for a loss," Hunter said.

Khan has formally appealed the decision, with his camp hoping for the bout to be declared a no contest so that he would retain his titles.

On Saturday, Golden Boy Promotions executive Richard Schaefer told Sky Sports News that the WBA have offered Khan a rematch with Peterson and urged the IBF to follow suit.

If that report is true, Hunter said, then WBA officials haven't followed their own procedures for reviewing the fight.

## US tour commissioner gets extension

PONTE VEDRA BEACH (AFP) - US PGA Tour commissioner Tim Finchem has received a four-year contract extension that will run through June 2016, the tour announced.

"Under Tim's leadership, and that of his Executive Team, the PGA TOUR has achieved many very significant accomplishments," said Victor Ganzi, Chairman of the PGA TOUR Policy Board.

Finchem became the US tour's third commissioner in June 1994.

While he presided over a period of overall growth, he has also had to steer the circuit through the difficulties of the recent economic crisis and the drop in form of golf's most marketable player -- Tiger Woods.

Even so, the tour announced in September that it had signed its longest US network television contracts for rights through 2021.

The record-setting nine-year deals with CBS and NBC extend the current contracts, set to expire in 2012, through the 2021 season.

"We have accomplished a lot, but there remains a great opportunity to continue to grow over the next four years," Finchem said.

"It is an honor to work in such a wonderful sport with the world's best athletes and a terrific management team. I look forward to continuing to work closely with them in the future."

Finchem, 64, followed Joe Dey and Deane Beman as commissioner. He played a key role in developing such events as The Presidents Cup, the World Golf Championships, the FedExCup and the PGA TOUR Playoffs for the FedExCup.

## Jags tap Falcons assistant Mularkey as new coach

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - The Jacksonville Jaguars have named Atlanta offensive coordinator Mike Mularkey as head coach, hoping he can improve the NFL's worst offense.

Mularkey had been the Falcons' offensive coordinator since 2008. He was head coach of Buffalo from 2004-05, then spent two seasons with Miami before moving to Atlanta.

Overall the 50-year-old has 18 years of experience coaching in some capacity in the NFL, a career that followed his nine seasons as a player for Minnesota and Pittsburgh.

As head coach in Buffalo he amassed a 14-18 record. In 2004 the team got off to a woeful 0-4 start but finished 9-7.

The Jaguars endured a tumultuous season with then-owner Wayne Weaver announcing the sale of the club to Pakistani-born businessman Shahid Khan on the same day in November that the slumping club sacked head coach Jack Del Rio after a 3-8 start.

The Jaguars finished the season 5-11



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## NBA: Determined Bryant defies injury

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LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Amid the early uncertainties of the lockout-shortened NBA season, Los Angeles Lakers superstar Kobe Bryant still has plenty of answers, despite age and injury.

On Tuesday night, the 33-year-old poured in 48 points to lead the Lakers to a 99-83 victory over the Phoenix Suns.

It was Bryant's 108th career game with 40 points or more -- his first this season after only three last term.

Bryant hadn't scored so many points since he erupted

for 49 against Phoenix on March 1, 2009, and the performance came despite the torn ligament in his right wrist.

"You have to figure out a way to get it done," Bryant said. "There's no time to make excuses."

Bryant was injured in a pre-season game, but had little time to rehabilitate before the compressed season began on Christmas Day.

Players around the league have said that the truncated training camps and, now, the rugged scheduling required

for each team to play 66 games before the playoffs, will make for fatigue, injuries and diminished performances.

"It's going to be a grind," Atlanta guard Kirk Hinrich said last week. "It will come down to staying healthy and the teams that have the best bench."

Dirk Nowitzki, who led the Dallas Mavericks to the title last season, said the compressed schedule can't lead to quality play, and the Mavericks have had their problems building momentum in their title defence.

"It is a lot of games. But I

think every team's got to deal with it now, and we've just got to be better," Nowitzki said. "It's tough, especially for a team that's got a lot of veterans on it."

That also applies to the Lakers, whose starting lineup has an average age of 31.

Bryant, however, clearly isn't making excuses on or off the court.

"If I play bad or have one bad game like I did in Denver, everybody cries for a change or cries for the fact that I'm too old when it's just a bad game or a bad wrist," Bryant said. "Nobody wants to hear that."

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## Brazil won't be '100% ready' to host World Cup: Romario

BRASILIA (AFP) - Brazil won't be "100 percent ready" to host the 2014 World Cup, as work on two of the stadiums won't be completed in time, former World Cup winner Romario said in an interview published Wednesday.

"I think that (Brazil) won't be 100 percent ready. Of the 12 stadiums (that are to stage World Cup events) maybe 10 will be ready," the retired football star said in his interview with the magazine Istoe, which was carried on social networks.

"As to work on public transportation, none of the cities involved will be able to complete it fully," said Romario, who is now a lawmaker with Brazil's Socialist

Party (PSB).

He also warned that the total cost for staging the World Cup could jump from an estimated \$44 billion to \$55.5 billion.

Brazil is racing to build or renovate 12 stadiums in time for the 2014 event, and Sports Minister Aldo Rebelo late last year pledged that work on the venues largely would be completed ahead of schedule.

A controversial figure on and off the park when he played as a striker for Brazil and a number of top clubs in Europe and South America, Romario has been critical of both the World Cup organizers and of FIFA, world football's governing body.

## Dodgers, Fox, settle lawsuit

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - A bankruptcy judge approved a settlement Wednesday between the Los Angeles Dodgers and broadcaster Fox Sports that will allow for a timely sale of the beleaguered Major League Baseball club.

According to an article posted on the team's website, the Dodgers agreed to honor their existing broadcast agreement with Fox through 2013 and the network withdrew its lawsuit attempting to thwart the bankruptcy proceeding and seeking "massive" damages.

"You're all settled now," Delaware bankruptcy judge Kevin Gross said. "It's fair and reasonable."

The dispute hinged on the Dodgers' desire to auction the club's future broadcasting rights, with Fox objecting on grounds the plan jeopardized its right of first refusal.

The dispute threatened the sale of the cash-strapped club by owner Frank McCourt.

Initial bids by potential buyers are due by January 23, and a winning bidder must be submitted to the court by McCourt by April 1.

The deal is supposed to be closed by April 30 -- the same date McCourt is due to pay a \$131 million divorce settlement to ex-wife Jamie.

Joe Torre, a major league manager for 28 years before becoming a league executive, this month resigned his post as a vice president to pursue a bid to buy the team.

Among reported rival bidders for the historical ballclub, which has been in bankruptcy since last June, are retired NBA star Magic Johnson, former owners Fox Sports and Peter O'Malley and NBA champion Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban.



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## Howard replaces Blazer in CONCACAF post



NEW YORK (AFP) - Ted Howard was promoted to acting general secretary of North American regional football governing body CONCACAF on Monday after the resigna-

tion of Chuck Blazer from the job became official.

Howard, 66, has been CONCACAF deputy general secretary since 1998. He serves on FIFA's referees and stadium-security committees.

Blazer, who had been general secretary since 1990, announced in October he would leave at the end of the year. He remains on FIFA's executive committee.

Last May, it was Blazer who said that CONCACAF President Jack Warner and Asian confederation supremo Mo-

hamed bin Hammam tried to bribe Caribbean delegates to vote for Bin Hammam in FIFA's presidential election.

CONCACAF has not yet selected a new president since Warner resigned the job in the wake of the scandal that brought down bin Hammam.

Howard served as director and group manager of NBA Marketing from 1988 until joining CONCACAF a decade later. He was executive director of the North American Soccer League from 1971 until it folded in 1984.

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